

Message Text

SECRET

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TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YU, XF

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MINIC - MIDDLE EAST

1. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY PRESIDENT TITO AND GOY ON ME, STICKING TO THEM DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM OTHER NONALIGNED. MINIC SAID, "WE DON'T LET ANYONE MANIPULATE OUR VIEWS." HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHEN THE INTERIM SINAI AGREEMENT WAS REACHED GOY HAD COME OUT WITH A STATEMENT BECAUSE IT WANTED ITS ARAB FRIENDS, THE SOVIETS, CHINESE, AND EVERYONE TO KNOW WHAT ITS ATTITUDE WAS. UNFORTUNATELY, "SOME DON'T LIKE OUR ATTITUDE." THE SECRETARY FELT THAT ONCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT WAS UNDERWAY CRITICS OF THE AGREEMENT WILL CALM DOWN AND COUNTRIES OTHER THAN EGYPT WILL WANT TO PARTICIPATE.

2. THE SECRETARY STRESSED HIS VERY HIGH REGARD FOR THE
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LEADERS OF SYRIA. MINIC SHARED THIS REGARD AND COMMENTED

THAT SYRIANS WERE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARAB LEADERS. THE SECRETARY SAID ALLON'S STATEMENT IN NEW YORK THE PREVIOUS DAY ABOUT ISRAELI READINESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SYRIANS HAD BEEN POSITIVE. HE DESCRIBED THE SYRIAN LEADERS AS NOT HAPPY WITH THE AGREEMENT PER SE. ASSAD

-- HAD HOWEVER CAREFULLY LEFT
OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF AN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL.

3. MINIC WAS CURIOUS TO KNOW IF ALLON-GROMYKO THREE-HOUR MEETING IN NEW YORK WAS A STEP TOWARD RE-ESTABLISHING RELATIONS. RECOGNITION WOULD GIVE SOVIETS MORE FLEXIBILITY, THE SECRETARY REPLIED. US HAD ALWAYS URGED RECOGNITION UPON PARTIES AS WAY TO EASE ME SITUATION.

4. MINIC SAID THAT THE YUGOSLAVS HAD STUDIED VERY CAREFULLY PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT TITO ON ME. THEY CONCLUDED THAT THE US HAD CORRECTLY INTERPRETED THE YUGOSLAV STAND. MINIC SAID SOME ARABS WERE POSING THE QUESTION WHY THE US HAD AGREED TO SEND ITS EXPERTS TO THE SINAI. THIS WAS CAUSING THEM GREAT DIFFICULTIES. THE SECRETARY SAID WE DIDN'T WANT TO SEND THEM AND THE US DERIVED NO BENEFIT FROM DOING SO, BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY OF REACHING AN AGREEMENT.

5. MINIC SAID THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAS GOOD RELATIONS OF LONG STANDING WITH EGYPT BUT IT DOES NOT ALWAYS AGREE WITH EGYPT'S ACTIONS. YUGOSLAVIA CANNOT ALWAYS EXERT INFLUENCE ON THE ARABS. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE OVERTURNED. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT IF THE AGREEMENT IS TOPPLED, THE OUTCOME WILL PROBABLY BE WAR. HOWEVER, ANY SUCH WAR WOULD PROBABLY NOT CHANGE THE SITUATION IN ANY FUNDAMENTAL WAY. HE HOPED THE ARAB STATES WOULD REMAIN COOL AND WOULD REALIZE THAT THE OBJECTIVE CONDITIONS WERE FAVORABLE FOR MOVING TOWARDS PEACE. HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS SOON. MINIC SAID HE WOULD BE TALKING WITH THE ARABS.

7. MINIC ASKED WHAT THE SECRETARY MEANT IN HIS UN SPEECH
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BY "INFORMAL MEETINGS." THE SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE DO NOT EXCLUDE INFORMAL CONTACTS AND WE MAY TAKE SOME STEPS IN THAT DIRECTION. MINIC SAID THERE WAS A DISPUTE ABOUT WHETHER THE SECRETARY HAD REFERRED TO PALESTINIANS OR TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THE SECRETARY SAID PALESTINIANS BUT HE WOULD HAVE HAD NO TROUBLE SAYING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. SONNENFELDT NOTED THAT PEOPLE AND NATION ARE TRANSLATED AS NATION IN ALL SLAVIC LANGUAGES. THE

SECRETARY THEN STATED THAT HE COULD SAY PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE BUT NOT PALESTINIAN NATION. MINIC SAID THIS
MEANS THE PALESTINIANS INTERPRETED THE SPEECH CORRECTLY.
WITH REFERENCE TO A GENEVA CONFERENCE, THE SECRETARY
OBSERVED THAT ONCE IT IS ASSEMBLED IT CANNOT END, AND IF

THERE IS A DEADLOCK IT CREATES A VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION.
MINIC SAID THAT PRESIDENT TITO WOULD BE REPLYING TO
PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE. KISSINGER

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